

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-10 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /094 W

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R 251015Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7872

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4213

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BG

SUBJECT: FORMER VICE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, 24 OTHERS
ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF CORRUPTION

REF: DACCA 4106

1. ACCORDING TO A BDG SPOKESMAN, TWENTY-SIX PERSONS
WERE ARRESTED ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 23 UNDER MARTIAL
LAW REGULATIONS (REFTEL) ON CHARGES OF "AMASSING
WEALTH DISPROPORTIONATE TO THEIR KNOWN SOURCES OF
INCOME, INDULGING IN CORRUPT PRACTICES AND ANTISOCIAL
ACTIVITIES...NEPOTISM, ABUSE OF POWER..." THOSE
ARRESTED INCLUDE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT SYED NAZRUL ISLAM,
FORMER PRIME MINISTER MANSOOR ALI, AND FORMER MINISTERS
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TAJUDDIN AHMED AND A.H.M. KAMARUZZAMAN.

2. FOLLOWING ARE THE 26 MEN ARRESTED, GROUPED IN CATEGORIES:

A. FORMER GOVERNMENT LEADERS: SYED NAZRUL ISLAM, MANSOOR ALI, TAJUDDIN AHMED (FIRED AS MINISTER OF FINANCE IN OCTOBER 1974); A.H.M. KAMARUZZAMN (FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES); ABDUS SAMAD (FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE), SHEIKH ABDUL AZIZ (ONCE A MINISTER AND LATELY MEMBER OF 15-MAN BAKSAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE), AND KORBAN ALI (FORMER MINISTER OF INFORMATION).

B. OTHER MPS: ABDUL MANNAN (LABOR LEAGUE GENERAL SECRETARY JAILED AND RELEASED EARLIER ON EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES); ANWAR JANG OF DACCA; DR. ASHABUL HUQ OF KUSHTIA (AND FORMER AWAMI LEAGUE VICE PRESIDENT); ABDUL QUDDUS MAKHAN (FORMER STUDENT LEADER AND ONE-TIME YOUTH LEAGUE LIEUTENANT OF SHEIKH MONI); AND MD. DELWAR HOSSAIN OF MYMENSINGH (BELIEVED TO BE A LABOR LAGUE OFFICIAL).

C. CIVIL SERVANTS: A.T.M. SYED HOSSAIN, FORMER ADDITIONAL SECRETARY OF ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION AND MUJIB'S BROTHER-IN-LAW; AND KHANDAKAER ASADUZZAMAN, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF JUTE.

D. POLITICAL BOSSES OF DACCA: NINE OF THE MEN ARRESTED ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE POLITICAL LIEUTENANTS OF GAZI GOLAM MUSTAFFA: HASHEMUDDIN HAIDER ALIAS PAKARI, MOFAZZEL HUSSAIN ALIAS MAYA, YAKUB ALI ALIAS BENGHA, MD. AFZAL ALIAS MANTOO, DR. HAIDER ALI, ZINNAT ALI, GAZI MOSTAFA KAMAL (GAMA), ABDUL HYE, AND MOSADEEK ALI KHAN (BABLA).

E. OTHERS: ABDUR RAHMAN, BUSINESSMAN AND PUBLISHER OF DEFUNCT DAILY THE PEOPLE; ALEXANDER RODARICKS OF DACCA; AND MANIK CHOWDHURY ALIAS BHUPUTI BHUSAN OF CHITTAGONG.

3. COMMENT: IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT PROMULGATED ITS MARTIAL LAW REGULATIONS ON CORRUPTION IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH ITS BONA FIDES, THESE FIRST ARRESTS DO NOT ENTIRELY ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE. THE INCLUSION IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS LIST OF EX-MINISTERS SUCH AS TAJUDDIN- AND KAMARUZZAMAN WHO HAVE NOT BEEN NOTABLY TARRED WITH RUMORS OF CORRUPTION RAISES A SUSPICION THAT THE CORRUPTION CHARGES ARE BEING USED TO DAMAGE THEIR REPUTATIONS WHILE, SIMULTANEOUSLY, REMOVING FROM THE SCENE POSSIBLE CRITICS. A BETTER JUDGMENT REGARDING THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS CAN BE MADE AS MORE CASES ARE LAID AND AS THE CHARGES AGAINST THOSE

ALREADY ARRESTED ARE MADE PUBLIC. IT IS ALSO OF INTEREST
THAT NONE OF THE MINISTERS RETAINED IN THE NEW GOVERN-
MENT, SOME OF WHOM HAVE BEEN RUMORED IN THE PAST TO
HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION, HAVE BEEN CHARGED.
BOSTER

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